

“*Sterna dougalli*, Blanc goes on to say, is the least shy of all the Terns with which he is acquainted. He also says it has three different notes or series, viz., the call-note, the pleasure-note, and the alarm-cry. Having spent the last two or three summers on the south coast of Tunis, Blanc has no doubt had ample opportunity of observing *S. dougalli*, and ought therefore to be in a position to speak with accuracy about it.

“What I doubted was that only one egg should be laid in a nest; but on my writing again to ask him if he was quite sure of this, Blanc replied as follows:—

“‘Je vous certifie une fois de plus que je n’ai jamais trouvé qu’un seul œuf dans le nid de la *Sterna paradisæa* [*dougalli*]; dans les nids des autres espèces de Sterne deux ou trois, jamais quatre œufs; dans le nid de *S. caspia* toujours deux, jamais trois.’”

XXII.—*On a new Species of Honey-eater* (*Ptilotis spilogaster*)
from South-eastern New Guinea. By W. R. OGILVIE
 GRANT.

THE two specimens on which the present diagnosis is based have formed part of the British Museum collection for some years, but were wrongly identified with *Ptilotis filigera*, Gould [see Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. ix. p. 237 (1884)]. They are mentioned in the list of specimens under the letters “g” and “h,” the former being from the Astrolabe Mountains, the latter from Port Moresby, both collected by Mr. A. Goldie.

Specimen “f” of the same list is *Ptilotis visi*, recently described by Mr. E. Hartert (Novit. Zool. iii. p. 15) from the Mailu District, S.E. New Guinea. This is another very distinct form, most nearly allied to the larger *P. chrysotis*, found in Western New Guinea and on some of the islands off that coast.

Among the large number of specimens examined, no example from New Guinea can be referred to *P. filigera*, Gould, which is confined to North-east Australia and the Aru Islands.

On account of the well-marked pale spots on the lower breast and belly, I have called the new species

PTILOTIS SPILOGASTER, sp. n.

Most nearly allied to *P. filigera*, Gould, but recognizable at a glance by the large and conspicuous postorbital patch of white feathers, which passes above and below the eye in two well-marked white bands. It also differs from *P. filigera* in having the nape entirely devoid of pale grey spots, while the lower breast and belly are very distinctly spotted with pale yellowish white. The general colour of the under part is pale brown, without much trace of any rufous on the flanks; the greater wing-coverts are dark brown, very narrowly edged with greenish yellow.

Adult: Astrolabe Mountains. Total length 7.5 inches, wing 4.15, tail 3.25, tarsus 1.06.

Adult: Port Moresby. Total length 7.4 inches, wing 4.1, tail 3.5, tarsus 1.02.

The specimen from Port Moresby is the type of the species.

The following key shows the differences between *P. spilogaster* and the most nearly allied species:—

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| A. Patch of white feathers behind the eye very large and distinct, and extending above and below the eye to the lores; feathers of the nape entirely devoid of pale spots | <i>P. spilogaster.</i> |
| B. Patch of white feathers behind the eye and above the ear-coverts small but well-marked (absent in young birds); feathers of the nape distinctly spotted with whitish grey (less conspicuous or obsolete in immature birds) | <i>P. filigera.</i> |
| C. Patch of white feathers behind the eye and above the ear-coverts quite rudimentary or absent; pale spots on the nape less distinctly marked or absent. | |
| <i>a.</i> Rufous margins to the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries very wide; greater wing-coverts pale rufous chestnut with brown middles, or brown widely margined with pale rufous. General colour of mantle, back, and wings brown, washed with rufous, forming a rather well-marked contrast with the crown of the head, which is dark brown with a more or less greenish tinge. | |
| Average size of wing 3.6 inches | <i>P. visi.</i> |

- b. Inner webs of primaries and secondaries narrowly margined with pale rufous; greater wing-coverts brown, with narrow yellowish-white or buff margins. General colour of the head brown, washed with greenish, similar to the rest of the upper parts. Average size of wing 3·9 inches .. *P. chrysotis*.

XXIII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XXXI.—XXXIII.

No. XXXI. (Dec. 30th, 1895.)

THE thirtieth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of December, 1895.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—G. BARRETT-HAMILTON, R. M. BARRINGTON, E. BIDWELL, Col. C. T. BINGHAM, J. L. BONHOTE, PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, ERNST HARTERT, Major A. P. LOYD, J. G. MILLAIS, R. NESHAM, H. J. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), Capt. G. E. SHELLEY, Rev. H. H. SLATER, C. A. WRIGHT, JOHN YOUNG.

Visitors: F. V. McCONNELL, H. STEVENS, W. N. WOOD.

THE CHAIRMAN spoke of the loss which the Club had sustained since its last meeting, by the death of Mr. Henry Seebohm, of whose life and work he gave a short account. He proposed that a message of condolence be sent to the family, and this was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Sclater also expressed a hope that some means would be found to publish the 'Monograph of the Turdidæ,' which Mr. Seebohm had left in a forward state.

Mr. J. G. MILLAIS exhibited photographs of Swallows' nests built in the branches of stags' horns at Warnham Court. One of these nests had been so built for nine years in succession.